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Staff report and recommendation on
Proposition 1 / Michael B. Wilmar.

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
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May 9, 1980

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MAY 12 1980
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TO: All Commissioners and Alternates
FROM: Michael B. Wilmar, Executive Director

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PROPOSITION 1
(For Commission consideration on May 15, 1980)

I. Report

Proposition 1, The Parklands and Renewable Resources Investment Fund, would authorize the issuance of $495 million in revenue bonds (see attachment 1). The money would be used for the acquisition, development, restoration, and preservation of state and local parks, beaches, recreational sites, wildlife resources and historical monuments. The ballot measure results from Senate Bill 547 which the Commission considered on December 6, 1979, when it voted to support the bill. At that time, the Commission also requested an amendment to allow a portion of the funds to be spent for San Francisco Bay projects. The author amended the bill to provide up to $10 million to be spent by the Coastal Conservancy on Bay access projects. Other funding is also available to local governments and to the Department of Parks and Recreation for parks around San Francisco Bay. Of particular interest to the Commission is the emphasis given to urban park acquisition and development, and Candlestick Park is expected to receive some of the urban park money.

In addition to access, park, and preservation projects, Proposition 1 would also provide funding for new fish hatcheries, the improvement of salmon and steelhead spawning areas, the initiation of local project to reclaim municipal wastewater for industry and irrigation, and the restoration of damaged agricultural lands. The $495 million would thus be divided into the following categories:

1. $338,000,000 would be used for parkland and recreation acquisition and development;

2. $ 45,000,000 would be used for fisheries improvement projects; and

3. $112,000,000 would be used mostly for municipal wastewater projects with some funds for water conservation and drainage projects.

In the parkland and recreation category, the $338,000,000 would be divided as follows:

1. $95 million would be available for grants to counties, cities and districts for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, or restoration of real property for park, beach, recreational, and historic resources;

2. $75 million would be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, or restoration of real property for the state park system;

3. $95 million would be used for coastal recreation resources projects;

4. $3 million would be used for the acquisition and development of public access to recreational boating waterways;

5. $25 million would be used for land acquisition at Lake Tahoe;

6. $10 million is earmarked for Coastal Conservancy projects;

7. $35 million would be used for urban open space and recreation acquisition.

Most of the Proposition 1 money would be spent on parks and recreational resources to provide new and expanded recreation areas. The demands on parks has been increasing faster than the population. Since 1946, California's population has doubled, but park visitors have increased twenty-fold. Last year the State Park System turned away more than 1,000,000 visitors from parks and campgrounds. That figure does not represent disappointed visitors to national, regional and local parks. The funding allocation also recognizes that nearly 80% of all Californians live within the 15 coastal counties and that increasing gasoline costs will lead to more visitors demands on nearby and coastal parks. The Bay Plan now recommends several sites for park and recreation use which are now either not publically owned or require development before they can fully serve visitors. Some of both the park money and the coastal project money will be available for San Francisco Bay projects.

Proposition 1 also allocates $45,000,000 to fishery enhancement projects that includes expansion of existing hatcheries, restoration of habitat for salmon and steelhead and protection of wildlife habitat. Fishing is one of the major recreational benefits of San Francisco Bay. While most of the funds will be spent outside the Bay Area, some of the fisheries enhancement will likely benefit Bay fishermen of salmon and steelhead.

II. Conclusion

The available money for park and resource projects is severely limited. Proposition 13 has had, and will continue to have, a substantial impact on the amount of funds available for public projects. Should Proposition 9 pass, state and local revenues will be further reduced. Yet the demand for recreational facilities and parks has increased and will be increasing considerably. The increased demand will be especially noticeable near urban areas such as San Francisco Bay. For these reasons, additional funds for recreation and park projects should be made available.

III. Recommendation

The staff recommends the Commission support Proposition 1.

PROPOSITION 1

Proposition 1 will appear on the June 3, 1980 ballot with the following language:

> "This act provides for a bond issue of four hundred ninety-five million dollars ($495,000,000) to be used in a coordinated effort to deal with the interrelated problems of meeting the recreational and open-space requirements of the people of California, conserving and extending the state's water supply expanding sport and commercial fishing opportunities, and restoring and protecting the agricultural productivity of the state's soil resources pursuant to the Parklands and Renewable Resources Investment Program."

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